

Amendments to the Claims:

The following complete listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Kindly amend Claims 1, 2, and 10; cancel Claims 3-7, without prejudice; and add new illustrative Claims 15 and 16 as follows. No new matter has been introduced.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method to facilitate use of an interactive program guide, comprising the steps of:

providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs;

5 displaying an interactive program guide comprising at least one of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs;

detecting preliminary selection of a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs to provide a preliminarily selected audio/visual program;

10 when a user selects the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, automatically taking a first predetermined action with respect to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program;

when a user preliminarily selects a different one of the plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual program, automatically taking a second predetermined action with respect to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, which second predetermined action is different than the first predetermined action;

15 when a user takes an action with respect to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, which action does not comprise either selecting the preliminarily selected audio/visual program or preliminarily selecting a different audio/visual program, automatically taking a third predetermined action with respect to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, which third predetermined action is different than the first and the second predetermined action[.],

20 wherein the plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs are embodied in a plurality of media,

wherein the step of automatically taking a first predetermined action comprises adding information regarding the preliminarily selected audio/visual program to a list of preferred items,
wherein the step of automatically taking a second predetermined action comprises
25 moving an area of visual focus away from the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, and
wherein the step of automatically taking a third predetermined action comprises displaying the list of preferred items.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs comprise at least one of:

- a programming network identifier;
- 5 a broadcast starting time;
- a description of audio/visual content as corresponds to the audio/visual program; and
an audio/visual program media source.

Claims 3-7 (canceled):

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein detecting preliminary selection of a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs further comprises detecting at least a predetermined relationship between a present position of one of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to the particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs
5 and an area of visual focus.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1 and further comprising determining when the user selects the preliminarily selected audio/visual program by detecting when the user asserts a selection action at a time when a characterizing descriptor as corresponds to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program occupies, at least in part, a same portion of a display as a
5 predetermined area of visual focus.

PATENT

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/806,830

Title: Interactive Program Guide with Preferred Items List Apparatus and Method

Applicant: Nishikawa et al.

Response to Office Action of June 2, 2008

Attorney Docket No. 81233.7114

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method to facilitate provision of an interactive programming guide, comprising the steps of:

providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content;

5 providing an updatable list of preferred items of audio/visual content;

displaying an interactive programming guide comprising at least one of the characterizing descriptors;

providing an area of visual focus on a particular displayed one of the characterizing descriptors;

10 in response to a first signal, adding information regarding the discrete selectable item of audio/visual content as corresponds to the particular displayed one of the characterizing descriptors as is presently in the area of visual focus to the updatable list of preferred items of audio/visual content;

15 in response to a second signal that is different from the first signal, moving the area of visual focus to a different one of the characterizing descriptors;

in response to a third signal that is different from both the first signal and the second signal, displaying the updatable list of preferred items of audio/visual content[[.]].

wherein the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content are embodied in a plurality of media.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10 wherein the response to the third signal further comprises not displaying characterizing descriptors as correspond to items of audio/visual content that are not on the list of preferred items of audio/visual content.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 10 further comprising:

receiving at least one of the first signal, the second signal, and the third signal from a remote control device.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 10 wherein the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content are embodied in a plurality of media.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 10 further comprising:

5 automatically adding information corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content to the updatable list of preferred items of audio/visual content when the area of visual focus is on a characterizing descriptor as corresponds to the particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content for greater than a predetermined length of time.

Claim 15 (new): A method to facilitate use of an interactive program guide, comprising the steps of:

providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs;

5 displaying an interactive program guide comprising at least one of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs;

detecting preliminary selection of a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs to provide a preliminarily selected audio/visual program;

10 determining when the user selects the preliminarily selected audio/visual program by detecting when the user asserts a selection action at a time when a characterizing descriptor as corresponds to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program occupies, at least in part, a same portion of a display as a predetermined area of visual focus;

when a user selects the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, automatically taking a first predetermined action with respect to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program;

15 when a user preliminarily selects a different one of the plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual program, automatically taking a second predetermined action with respect to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, which second predetermined action is different than the first predetermined action;

20 when a user takes an action with respect to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, the action not comprising either selecting the preliminarily selected audio/visual program or preliminarily selecting a different audio/visual program, automatically taking a third predetermined action with respect to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, which third predetermined action is different than the first and the second predetermined action,

25 wherein the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete
selectable audio/visual programs comprise at least one element selected from a group consisting
essentially of a programming network identifier, a broadcast starting time, a description of
audio/visual content as corresponds to the audio/visual program, and an audio/visual program
media source,

30 wherein the plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs are embodied in a
plurality of media,

wherein the step of automatically taking a first predetermined action comprises adding
information regarding the preliminarily selected audio/visual program to a list of preferred items,

wherein the step of automatically taking a second predetermined action comprises
moving an area of visual focus away from the preliminarily selected audio/visual program,

35 wherein the step of automatically taking a third predetermined action comprises
displaying the list of preferred items, and

wherein the step of detecting preliminary selection of a particular one of the discrete
selectable audio/visual programs further comprises detecting at least a predetermined
relationship between a present position of one of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to
40 the particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs and an area of visual focus.

Claim 16 (original): A method to facilitate provision of an interactive programming guide,
comprising:

providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of
discrete selectable items of audio/visual content;

5 providing an updatable list of preferred items of audio/visual content;

displaying an interactive programming guide comprising at least one of the characterizing
descriptors;

providing an area of visual focus on a particular displayed one of the characterizing
descriptors;

10 in response to a first signal, adding information regarding the discrete selectable item of
audio/visual content as corresponds to the particular displayed one of the characterizing
descriptors as is presently in the area of visual focus to the updatable list of preferred items of

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audio/visual content;

15 in response to a second signal that is different from the first signal, moving the area of visual focus to a different one of the characterizing descriptors;

in response to a third signal that is different from both the first signal and the second signal, displaying the updatable list of preferred items of audio/visual content,

receiving at least one of the first signal, the second signal, and the third signal from a remote control device,

20 automatically adding information corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content to the updatable list of preferred items of audio/visual content when the area of visual focus is on a characterizing descriptor as corresponds to the particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content for greater than a predetermined length of time,

25 wherein the response to the third signal further comprises not displaying characterizing descriptors as correspond to items of audio/visual content that are not on the list of preferred items of audio/visual content, and

wherein the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content are embodied in a plurality of media.